

F-7-44

James H. Simmons House
Urbana vicinity
Private

Ca. 1840; ca. 1885

The James H. Simmons House is moderately significant for the stonemasonry of the dwelling, built about 1840 and altered about 1885 with a shingled cross gable and a patterned slate roof. It is a two-story house with three bays featuring a center entrance with a paneled soffit. The two-story rear wing has been considerably altered in recent years with an extended and enclosed two-story porch. Evidence on the south elevation of whitewash shows an addition has been removed from this location. Associated with the house are a frame smokehouse, a frame granary, and a small frame barn of the English type, all built in the late 19th century. The origins of the house are unclear, but it was probably part of the "New Bremen" tract once owned by Frederick Amelung, whose glassworks were east of the property on Bennett Creek. In 1854, James H. Simmons acquired four acres of the property, apparently including the house. He and his heirs owned the house until the late 1880's, when it may have been purchased by Frederick A. Ordeman, the son of the distillery owner Capt. H. D. Ordeman of Park Mills.

F-7-44

James H. Simmons House

Urbana

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Cederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse

Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James H. Simmons House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2653 Park Mills Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Urbana

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6th

state Maryland

county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Exel M. and Jean M. Yingling

street & number 2625 Park Mills Road

telephone no.:

city, town Adamstown

state and zip code MD 21710

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

liber 1480

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street

folio 665

city, town Frederick

state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

ate

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-44

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

The James H. Simmons House is a two-story stone vernacular dwelling with a shingled cross gable built about 1840 and its three associated outbuildings, a frame barn, a granary, and a smokehouse, all of which appear to date from the last quarter of the 19th century. The group of buildings is located on the east side of Park Mills Road just south of Peters Road near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling has been altered extensively, especially the two-story rear wing on the east elevation. Dates for the buildings are based on architectural details, historical maps, and land records.

The dwelling has a three-bay west elevation with a center entrance. The doorway is recessed with a paneled soffit and a 6-panel door under a narrow four-light transom. The flanking window bays have gauged brick arches and 1/1 replacement sash. Evidence of repointing in the rubble stone of the west elevation shows the outline of a removed one-story porch. The present access to the doorway is a concrete stoop. The cross gable was probably an addition of the late 19th century, having a shingled surface typical of the Shingle style of that period. The roof is patterned slate, which is also of the late 19th century. Interior end chimneys are located at the north and south gables. The north gable end has no openings except at the attic level where two 2/2 windows are located. The south elevation has an outline in weathered whitewash showing that a 1-1/2 story addition, possibly with a porch on the west side, has been removed. The two-story rear wing has been extended and the two-story porch enclosed with modern vertical siding and 1/1 sash. The east gable end of the wing has german siding and a single 2/2 window at the first story level. The interior was inaccessible for this survey.

Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The frame smokehouse is located immediately east of the rear wing. It has board and batten siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. A vertical board door is located on the west side. A shed addition on the north may date from the early 20th century, judged by its newer materials of vertical boards. The original section of the smokehouse probably dates about 1870.

Granary: The small frame granary is located north of the house and the smokehouse. Built about 1900, the granary has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. It is supported on concrete block piers and the ground under the structure drops away to the east, raising the floor of the building above the grade. Sliding or swing doors are located on the west elevation.

Barn: The small frame barn located west of the granary at the edge of the road is a variation of the English barn type, without an overshot section above the stalls as in the German type. The exterior is covered with vertical siding and the roof is standing seam metal. Sliding doors are located on the east and west elevations. A shed addition is on the north gable end. The barn appears to date from the last quarter of the 19th century.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-44

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1840; Ca. 1885 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The James H. Simmons House is moderately significant for the stonemasonry of the dwelling, which displays details of at least two periods of construction. The original three-bay house probably dates from about 1840 and the shingled cross gable and patterned slate roof are elements added in the late 19th century. The origins of the house are unclear from land records, but the property is part of the "New Bremen" tract associated with the Amelung Glassworks, the site of which lies east of the house and its outbuildings along Bennett Creek. Parts of the New Bremen tract were apparently sold to Matthew Brown in 1805. His heirs, Caroline Brown and her sister Anna (Brown) Graff, wife of William Graff, sold a four-acre parcel in 1854 to James H. Simmons. The architecture of the house, however, strongly suggests that it was built prior to that date. Simmons is shown as the owner on both the 1858 and 1873 maps. He left the property to his adopted daughter Maggie Howard Simmons among other real estate in 1886, but after this date, the records again become unclear regarding its later owners. At some point in the 1880's, it may have been acquired by Frederick A. Ordeman, the son of Capt. H. D. Ordeman, the distillery operator at Park Mills.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-44

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 1412.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acresQuadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 3 acres centered on the dwelling north of the power line on Tax Map
104, Parcel 52.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept date October 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
ENCLOSURE
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
3-87400

2653 Park Mills Rd.

F-7-44

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

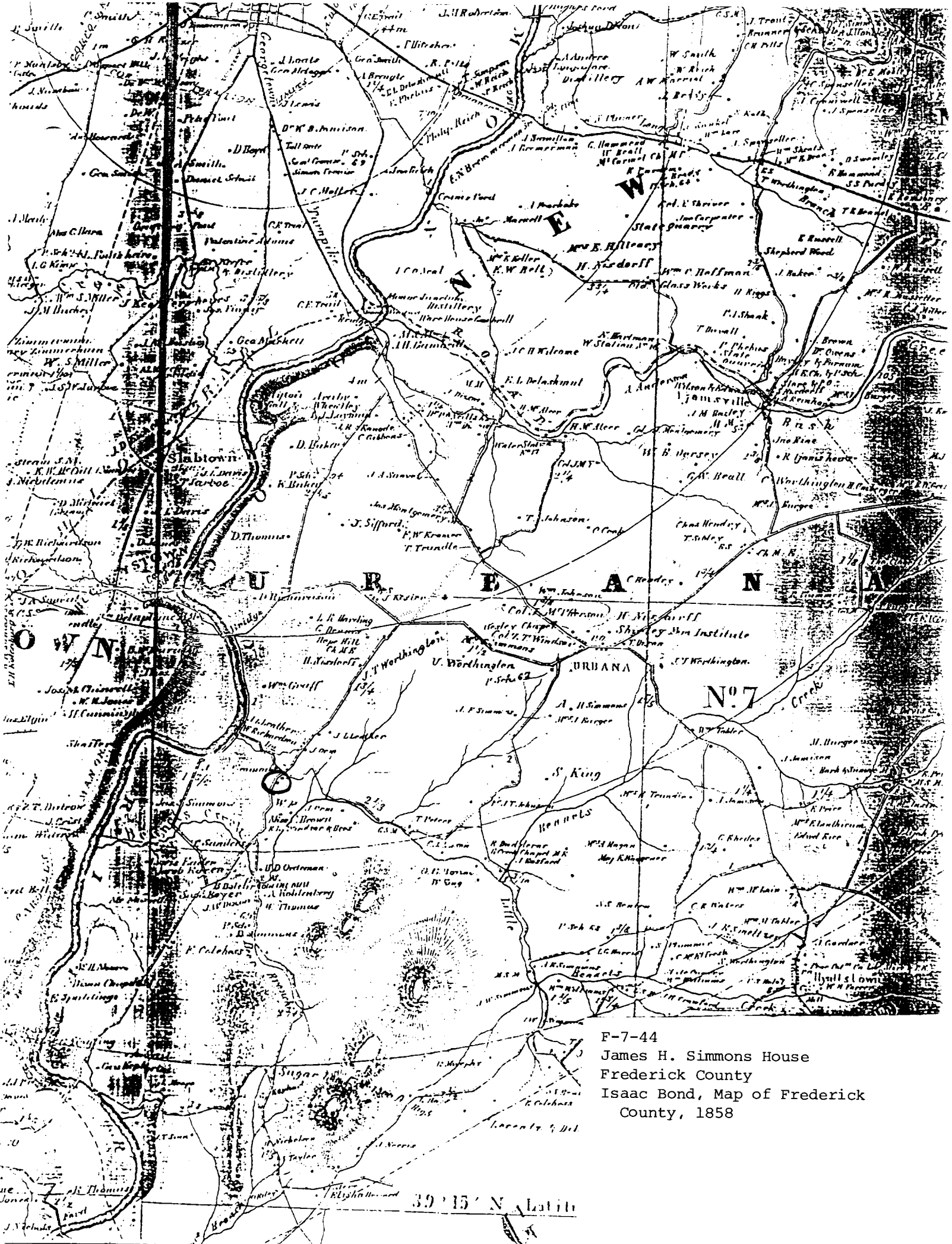
Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Cost	Miscellaneous
686/134 17 May 63	Vernon W. Njengling, widower	Eric M. Njeng- ling et al	Plot attached to deed 29.49 a.	
491/211 24 Dec 49	Eric M. & Jean M. Njengling	Vernon G. Njengling, Husband of Eric E. Njengling, dec.	183 a.	
382/229 11 Mar 32	Eric E. & Vernon G. Njengling	Peoples National Bank	344 a.	
382/228 11 Mar 32	Peoples National Bank	H. K. De Lauter, assignee of mortgage, Harley to Peoples National Bank		
352/374 1 Apr 25	Roger B. Harley et al	Sarah C. Ordeman widow of Frederick Ordeman		
WIP 6/732 9 Feb 1889	Sarah C. Ordeman	Frederick A. Ordeman	360 a.	\$5,400
AF 9/143 31 Mar 1884	Frederick A. Ordeman	Mary Brown	part of Mount Union 360 a.	\$5,900
ES 6/139 16 Sept 1884	James H. Simmons	Caroline Brown Mrs. & Anna Brown Draft heirs of Elizabeth D. Brown, dec.		(Relationship between this deed and AF 9/143 is not clear)
	(see following page for other Simmons deeds)			

F-7-44

Cost

Miscellaneous

[illegible]

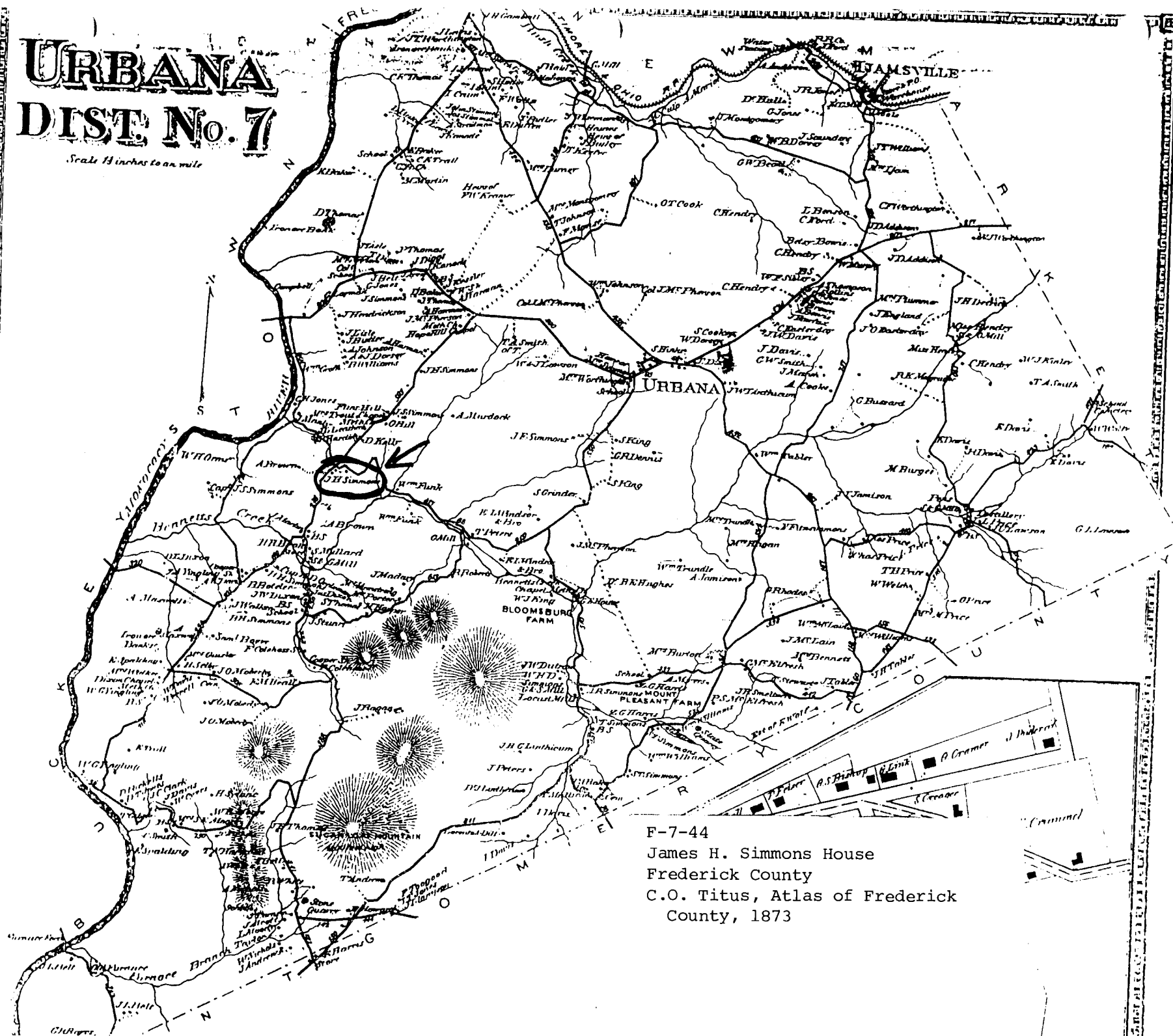


F-7-44
 James H. Simmonds House
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
 County, 1858

URBANA

DIST No. 7

Scale 1/4 inches to an mile



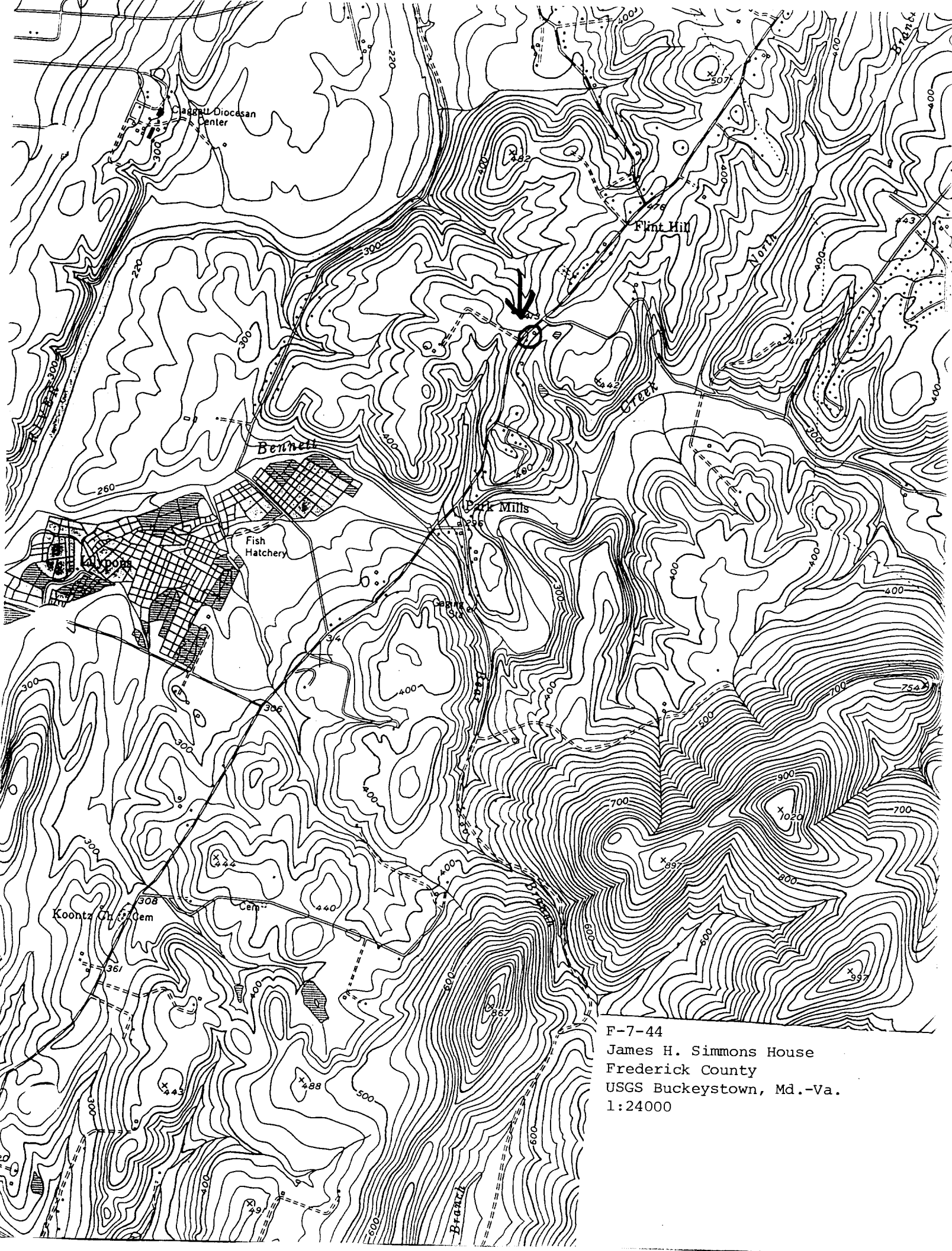
F-7-44

James H. Simmons House

Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick

County, 1873



F-7-44
James H. Simmons House
Frederick County
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.
1:24000









